

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application as amended.

Claim Amendment; Statement of Substance of Examiner Interview

In a 9/28/2005 interview between the Examiner and the undersigned attorney, distinctions between U.S. Patent No. 6,732,227 to Baumann ("Baumann") and claims 11, 15, 18, 29, 32 and 43 were discussed. In regards to claims 11 and 15, the Examiner suggested changing "a counter value" to --the counter value-- to clarify that the counter value is received from the counter, and further, in claim 15, to amend the expression "for storage" to clarify that the counter value is to be stored in at least one of the rows of the CAM cells. Applicant has amended claims 11 and 15 accordingly. No new matter has been added. The remarks below refer to the claims as amended herein.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 11, 15, 18, 29, 32 and 43 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Baumann. As discussed in the interview with the Examiner, applicant submits that Baumann lacks one or more limitations and/or combinations of limitations recited in each of claims 11, 15, 18, 19, 32 and 43, including for example:

In Claim 11:

a CAM array having a plurality of rows of CAM cells coupled to the counter to receive the counter value as a search key for the CAM array

In claim 15:

a CAM array having a plurality of rows of CAM cells coupled to the counter to receive the counter value to be stored in at least one of the rows of the CAM cells

In claim 18:

means for determining an index that indicates a location in the CAM array of one of the rows of CAM cells;
means for generating an address of one of the rows of CAM cells in the CAM array; and
means for determining that the address matches the index

In claim 29:

synchronizing a counter within the CAM device with the identifying such that the identifications of the locations match counter values of the counter when the CAM device is operating properly

In claim 32:

comparing the index with a first counter value from a counter

In claim 43:

synchronizing a counter within the CAM device with the identifying such that the identifications of the locations match counter values of the counter when the CAM device is operating properly

Because Baumann lacks at least the foregoing limitations or combinations of limitations, applicant submits that claims 11, 15, 18, 29, 32 and 43 are not anticipated by Baumann.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant acknowledges the allowance of claims 1-10, 19-26 and 28.

Applicant also acknowledges that claims 12-14, 16, 17, 30, 31 and 33-42 have been objected to as dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of their respective base claims and any intervening claims. In view of the foregoing remarks, applicant respectfully declines to rewrite such claims in independent form at this time.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-26 and 28-43 are in condition for allowance. If a telephone interview would be helpful in any way, the examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Authorization is hereby given to charge deposit account 501914 for any fee due in connection with this submission.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date Scptember 28, 2005

Application No. 10/004,209

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Atty. Docket No. NLMI.P143